



# Participation Guidelines

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# Students must participate in the state assessment through one of the following:

The regular state assessment for the student's grade  
WITH OR WITHOUT ACCOMMODATIONS



- **Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)**

- **Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE)**

**OR**

the alternate state assessment for the student's grade, the **Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA)**



## Who is eligible to take the IAA?

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Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities:

with intellectual functioning well below average  
(typically associated with an IQ below 55)

**that exists concurrently**

with impairments or deficits in adaptive functioning



## Myth:

Only students identified under the educational category of cognitive disability can take the IAA.

## Fact:

Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may be identified under a variety of educational categories.



## Individualize Criteria

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The IEP team provides a YES or NO response for each participation criteria as well as a reason for the YES or NO response.

As determined by the IEP, students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may take the IAA if a **YES response is given for all participation criteria.**



# Participation Criteria #1

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The student has intellectual functioning  
well below average that exists

**CONCURRENTLY**

with impairments or deficits in adaptive functioning



## Participation Criteria #2

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Due to the student's significant cognitive disability, the student's instruction is linked to grade level content, but is narrowed in scope and reduced in complexity.

It is reflective of the critical functions found in the alternate assessment framework.



## Participation Criteria #3

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When compared to other students with disabilities, the student requires more frequent and intensive instruction presented in incremental steps in order to apply and transfer skills across settings.



# Questions

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